



CHAPTER 9

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SID KOTIAN

COLORS BY
KOMIKAKI STUDIO
FEATURING KEVIN LIEW

LETTERS BY
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EDITED BY
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LOGO BY
JOHN DOYLE



I PROMISED
THEIR MOTHER
I'D TAKE CARE
OF THEM.

I
PROMISED
HER.



NOT EVEN
OUR STRONGEST
COULD STOP THEM...
THEY'RE TWISTED.
EVIL.



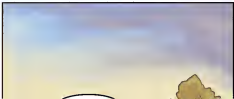
WE
KNOW.

DO YOU
KNOW WHERE
THEY MAY HAVE
BEEN HEADING
NEXT?



SOUTH
OF HERE. MY
ONLY GUESS IS
THE MONTEREY
COMMUNE.
IT'S THE
CLOSEST.

THEY SAID
THEY HAD SOME
'QUOTA TO FILL'.
WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN?



THEY'RE
COLLECTING
DENTS. STRONG
ONES. GIFTED
ONES LIKE YOUR
BOYS...AND MY
NIECE.

RECRUITING?
FOR SOME
KIND OF DENT
REVOLT?



THEY'LL
BECOME
EXACTLY WHAT
THE MINISTRY
TEACHES THIS
WORLD TO
FEAR.

TERRORISTS.



A comic book panel showing a building with a large window. The window is broken, with several panes missing. The building is brown and has a red roof. A speech bubble is coming from the window.

WHAT
KIND OF
DENTS WOULD
WANT THAT?

DENTS
THAT WOULD
MURDER THEIR
OWN KIND



WHY
KILL THOSE
YOU'RE
FIGHTING
FOR?

SO
THAT ONLY
THE STRONG
AND OBEDIENT
SURVIVE.





POSSIBLY...
BUT THERE
HAS TO BE
MORE TO IT
THAN THAT.

ANN,
WHERE ARE
ELEANOR AND
JAMIE?

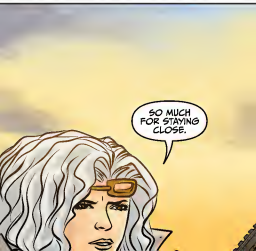


THEY
WENT TO FIND A
PLACE TO WORK
ON HER FIRE
ABILITY.

I TOLD
THEM TO HEAD
UP TO THE OLD
UNIVERSITY GREEK

UNIVERSITY'S GARDEN
THEATER. WE ALL
TRAIN UP THERE.
THEY'LL BE
ALRIGHT.



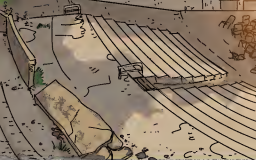






YOU
AREN'T EVEN
TRYING.

I AM. IF
YOU WEREN'T
SUCH AN ASSHOLE,
I MIGHT ACTUALLY
BE ABLE TO LEARN
SOMETHING
FROM YOU.





FORGET
IT. FIGURE
IT OUT ON
YOUR
OWN.

YOU
KNOW...YOU
THINK YOU'VE
SUFFERED MORE
THAN I HAVE,
BUT YOU'RE
WRONG.

YOU'RE
NOT THE ONLY
ONE WHO'S LOST
EVERYTHING
HERE.



SUFFERED? EVERY DAY SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, I HAVE HAD TO FIGHT FOR MY LIFE. THESE WILDS? OUR PATHETIC COMMUNES? NEVER FALLING ASLEEP WITHOUT FEARING YOU WON'T WAKE UP THE NEXT MORNING? YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ANY OF US HAVE DEALT WITH OUT HERE, ELEANOR.







A comic book panel depicting a scene in a rural or village setting. On the left, a character in a yellow robe stands near a stone wall. In the center, another character is shown from the back, wearing a simple tunic and trousers, looking towards the right. The background features a large, traditional-style building with a tiled roof, surrounded by trees and a fence. The sky is a mix of blue and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Three speech bubbles are present: one from the character in yellow, one from the character in the center, and a larger one from an unseen character on the right.

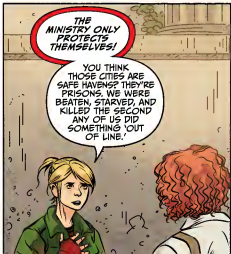
YOU
THINK THE
CITIES ARE ANY
BETTER?

**YES!
I DO!**

IT MAKES
ME SICK TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT YOUR
AUNT AND SISTER
SACRIFICED FOR YOU
SO YOU COULD LIVE IN
YOUR LITTLE PALACE,
PROTECTED BY THE
MINISTRY.

**THE
MINISTRY ONLY
PROTECTS
THEMSELVES!**

**YOU THINK
THOSE CITIES ARE
SAFE HAVENS? THEY'RE
PRISONS. WE WERE
BEATEN, STARVED, AND
KILLED THE SECOND
ANY OF US DID
SOMETHING 'OUT
OF LINE.'**





WE
SUFFOCATED
EVERY DAY WHILE
THEY TRIED TO
BRAINWASH
US.

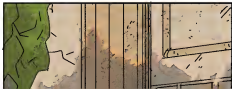


I NEVER
HAD A BREATH
OF FRESH AIR IN
MY LIFE UNTIL I
WOKE UP ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF

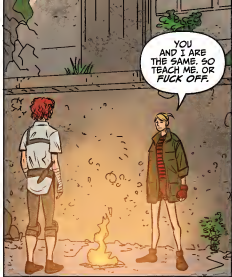
THE MILITIA

THAT WALL.

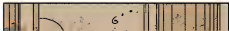
THE MEDIA
SLAUGHTERED
MY PARENTS, JUST
LIKE YOURS. I
HEARD THEIR
SCREAMS.



YOU
AND I ARE
THE SAME. SO
TEACH ME. OR
FUCK OFF.







YOUR
BLOOD. YOU NEED
TO FOCUS ON THE
HEAT OF IT...HOW IT
PUMPS THROUGH YOU,
WITH EACH THUD...
DOWN TO YOUR
FINGER-TIPS.





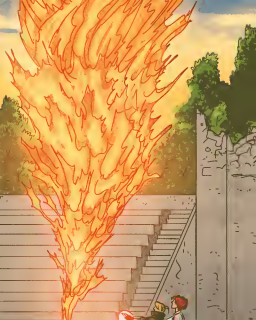
JUST
BREATHE...
AND LISTEN.



















[1941-1945]

[1946-1947]

[1948-1949]

[1950-1951]

[1952-1953]

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[1956-1957]

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